

# Dubious decision robs Tigers of great victory

Glenelg	2.3	3.3	9.6	12.9	(81)
Port	3.4	8.10	9.13	11.15	(81)

The big Glenelg banner in front of the members' stand at Football Park yesterday said "Lest we forget". You can guarantee they won't.

Instead, the Glenelg players, officials and fans will remember the game with regret, anger and disappointment.

This was because the game that was Glenelg's was taken from it by a decision that should not have been made. A decision that was too questionable and which robbed Glenelg of a fantastic victory.

Even Port Adelaide coach John Cahill conceded the decision given by umpire Ric Charlesworth in the last 30 seconds of the game was a mistake. "We were lucky," he said afterwards.

But Lady Luck proved again what a fickle gypsy she is — a lady who knows neither reason nor justice because Glenelg "won" that game.

But history will show it was a draw — made possible by Port follower Andy Porplycia who was given the controversial free kick seconds before the final siren sounded.

With hundreds of spectators swarming over the ground and police scurrying to protect the umpires, Porplycia booted the goal after the siren to clinch the draw.

As Charlesworth was escorted from the ground by police he was accosted by angry Glenelg fans, including Glenelg reserves' coach Steve Hywood, who had ran 50 metres from the Glenelg coaches box to give his opinion on the decision.

Senior coach John Halbert was still seething nearly an hour after the game ended, uttering many things that could not be printed.

"I still can't believe it," he said.

"It was a moral victory for us. We won it and I am very proud of the way the boys played."

The game was played in two halves — the first belonged to Port but the second unquestionably was Glenelg's as it hauled itself back into the game.

Port was too quick, too aggressive and too strong early.

At that stage Port's Russell Johnston was the best big man in the game. He reached above Peter Carey to hit the rovers Paul Belton and Brian Cunningham with plenty of chances and with David Granger playing superb

football at centre half-forward Glenelg was under pressure and not handling it too well.

Whenever it did stumble the ball forward it was quickly blocked off by what was virtually the State side defence - Greg Phillips, Tony Giles, Ivan Eckermann and Danny Hughes.

At half-time the Glenelg administration was staggered, had conceded defeat and was hoping the defeat would not be too embarrassing.

Halbert was also concerned. "I thought we were gone as we had played so poorly," he said.

But minutes before the Glenelg players hit the ground for the third term Halbert warned them that "all the things that had been said about Glenelg — that we were weak, that we had no aggression, would be said again if we failed."

The warning worked, because suddenly things started to happen for Glenelg. Players who had been struggling quickly became winners and players who had been unsighted burst into the game as the fierce aggression that was missing early snowballed into an avalanche that Port could not stop.

Carey was magnificent. Singlehandedly he overpowered the Port rucks to launch Glenelg to victory.

David Holst was not far behind him. Given the unenviable task of blocking out Russell Ebert, he did it to perfection, forcing Cahill to eventually shift Ebert into attack in an effort to find someone to win the ball in the centre.

With Carey came young Tony McGuinness who seemed bent on a public suicide, so fierce and reckless was his attack on the ball.

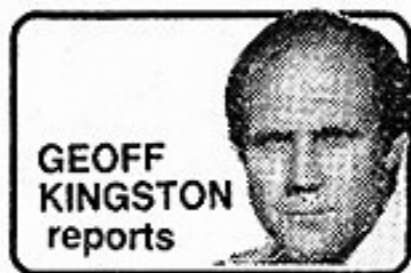
But everyone picked up the hint.

Paul Weston, David Marshall, Peter Maynard and John MacFarlane kept doing it as Robbie Walter, Keith Kuhlmann, Mark Hewett and Graham Cornes hauled themselves back into the game.

**GOALKICKERS** — Glenelg: Weston 2.2, Cornes 2.0, Seebohm 2.0, Walter 2.0, Kernahan 1.1, Hewett 1.1, Marshall 1.0, Garton 1.0, McGuinness 0.2, Paynter, McDermott 0.1, rushed 0.1. Port Adelaide: Evans 3.4, Granger 3.2, Manouge 2.0, Belton 1.2, A. Williams 1.0, Porplycia 1.0, Bradley 0.3, Cunningham 0.1, rushed 0.3.

**BEST** — Glenelg: Carey, Holst, Weston, McGuinness, MacFarlane, Marshall. Port Adelaide: Belton, Johnston, Eckermann, Kinnear, Granger, Giles.

**Umpires** — R. Charlesworth and L. Argent.



Glenelg captain Paul Weston takes the brunt of an aerial duel between Glenelg's Adam Garton (22) and Port's David Granger at Football Park yesterday. Tim Evans (5) and Peter Maynard await the outcome.

Glenelg came back from six goals down in conditions that made the task seem impossible. It did it with 17 men for a large part of the second half.

But then, in the last seconds of the game came umpire Charlesworth and his whistle to prove there really was no justice at Football Park yesterday afternoon.

	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst	Pts	%
Sturt	3	1	-	638	419	6	60.36
North	3	1	-	477	406	6	54.02
Port	2	1	1	396	304	5	56.57
Glenelg	2	1	1	473	450	5	51.25
Centrals	2	2	-	556	472	4	54.09
Norwood	2	2	-	412	403	4	50.55
West	2	2	-	495	539	4	47.87
South	2	2	-	385	447	4	46.27
Torrens	1	3	-	345	569	2	37.75
Woodville	-	4	-	360	528	-	40.54